

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the Japanese priority application.

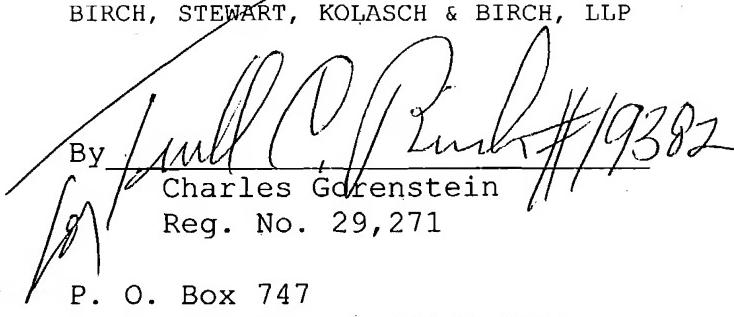
The specification and claims have been amended to be consistent with U.S. practice. No new matter has been introduced.

Should any issues arise which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone Daniel K. Dorsey (Reg. No. 32,520) at (703) 205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Charles Gorenstein
Reg. No. 29,271

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

33-886P
CG:DKD:rk